

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION**

<b>ESTELLA COGGINS,</b>	§	
<b>PLAINTIFF,</b>	§	
	§	
<b>v.</b>	§	<b>CASE NO. 3:23-CV-1357-X-BK</b>
	§	
<b>COMMISSIONER, SOCIAL SECURITY</b>	§	
<b>ADMINISTRATION,</b>	§	
<b>DEFENDANT.</b>	§	

**FINDINGS CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and *Special Order 3*, before the Court for findings and a recommended disposition is Plaintiff’s *Unopposed Application for Attorney Fees Under the Equal Access to Justice Act*. [Doc. 19](#). For the reasons that follow, the motion should be **GRANTED**.

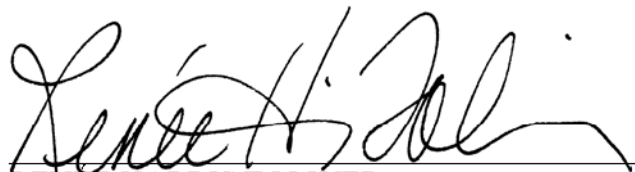
Under the Equal Access to Justice Act (“EAJA”), a court must award attorney’s fees and expenses if: (1) the claimant is a “prevailing party,” (2) the position of the United States was not “substantially justified,” and (3) there are no special circumstances that make an award unjust. [28 U.S.C. § 2412\(d\)\(1\)\(A\)](#); *Sims v. Apfel*, 238 F.3d 597, 599-600 (5th Cir. 2001). The award of attorney’s fees must be reasonable. *See* [28 U.S.C. § 2412\(b\)](#).

Plaintiff seeks an award of attorney’s fees in the amount of \$870.88 for 3.60 hours of work performed at an hourly rate of \$241.91. [Doc. 19 at 6](#). Plaintiff further requests reimbursement of the \$402.00 court filing fee, resulting in a total award of \$1,272.88. [Doc. 19 at 6](#). Having considered Plaintiff’s motion and the applicable law, the Court finds Plaintiff’s request reasonable and recommends that Plaintiff’s *Unopposed Application for Attorney Fees*

Under the Equal Access to Justice Act, [Doc. 19](#), be **GRANTED** in the amount of \$1,272.88.

The Supreme Court has held that EAJA awards are payable directly to the prevailing party, not their attorney. [Astrue v. Ratliff](#), 560 U.S. 586, 592-93 (2010). The Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has reiterated this point. [Jackson v. Astrue](#), 705 F.3d 527, 531 n.11 (5th Cir. 2013). Accordingly, the award of attorney's fees should be made payable directly to Plaintiff but sent in care of his attorney. *Id.*

**SO RECOMMENDED** on May 2, 2024.



RENEE HARRIS TOLIVER  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of this report and recommendation will be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. See [28 U.S.C. § 636\(b\)\(1\)](#); [FED. R. CIV. P. 72\(b\)](#). An objection must identify the finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and indicate where in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. See [Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Ass'n](#), 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996), modified by statute on other grounds, [28 U.S.C. § 636\(b\)\(1\)](#) (extending the time to file objections to 14 days).